

opc Bulletin

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB OF AMERICA, NEW YORK, NY • December 2009

Book on Cold War Offers Insights to Its Key Players

EVENT PREVIEW: DECEMBER 1

by Sonya K. Fry

David Hoffman is Contributing Editor to *The Washington Post* where he previously served as White House correspondent during the Reagan and Bush presidencies and was Moscow bureau chief from 1995 to 2001 so he is particularly qualified to tell the story of the frightening last chapters of the Cold War and the legacy of the nuclear, chemical and biological weapons that remain a threat today in his latest book, *The Dead Hand: The Untold Story of the Cold War Arms Race and Its Dangerous Legacy* [Doubleday, 2009].

The Cold War was an epoch of massive overkill. The two superpowers, Russia and the United States, had perfected the science of mass destruction. Their nuclear arsenals were insanely large and their biological weapons were constantly being upgraded to newer and more lethal strains. The "Dead Hand" refers to the Soviet system designed to launch an automatic retaliatory nuclear strike on the U.S. if the Soviet leaders were wiped out. As Steve Coll (author of *Ghost Wars*) put it in his blurb: "David Hoffman has uncovered some of the Cold War's most persistent and consequential secrets...and even to place the prospective end of civilization on a kind of automatic pilot... This is a

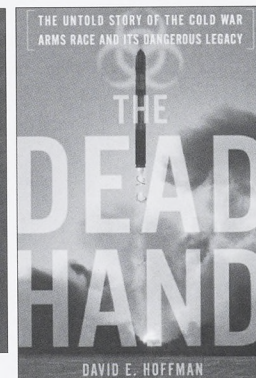
tour de force of investigative history."

With the opening of the Soviet archives Hoffman was able to research secret documents and along with exclusive interviews he was able to give a full account of how the arms race ended. The book offers fresh and startling insights into Reagan and Gorbachev, the two key figures at the end of the Cold War. As well, Hoffman draws portraits of people who struggled, often valiantly, to save the world from the most terrifying weapons known to man.

The story does not end with the collapse of the Soviet Union or the end of communism in Europe because the Russian unemployed military complex workers were now desperate for money. Hoffman recounts the story of one chemical warfare expert who ended up selling



David E. Hoffman



Snickers bars and blue jeans in a Moscow open-air market. Rickety trains were hauling unsecured nuclear warheads across the Russian steppes and tons of enriched uranium lay in unguarded warehouses.

"A stunning feat of research and narrative. Terrifying," writes John Le Carre.

The book night will take place at the OPC, 40 West 45 Street on Tuesday, December 1 at 6 p.m. The Harriman Institute at Columbia University is co-sponsoring this event. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Reflections on the Day the Wall Came Down

EVENT RECAP: NOVEMBER 9

by Michael O. Allen

For a moment, as David Burnett's eloquent photographs of the event played across the screen, it was not hard to sustain the illusion that everyone packed into German House in New York City on the night of November 9 was actually at the foot of the Berlin Wall 20 years ago.

The occasion was a panel discussion that the Overseas Press Club organized and was hosted by the German Consulate to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Dr. Horst Freitag, German Consul

General for New York, described events around the fall of the wall as "dramatic, monumental and complex." He left out the words joyous and euphoric but maybe he didn't have to say those words. The journalists on hand were at the Berlin Wall the day it came down and they described an epochal world event unlike no other.

The journalists, Freitag said, gave OPC members and invited guests of the German Consulate "first-hand and eyewitness accounts of the events leading to the fall of the Berlin Wall and the ending, actually, of the cold war without a single

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Despite Economic Climate, 2009 Was a Strong Year for the OPC

by Allan Dodds Frank

The Overseas Press Club approaches 2010 with strength and optimism. We have had a terrific year in spite of the economy with strong programs throughout the season, a highly successful fund-drive and equally spectacular 70th Anniversary Awards Dinner featuring Jim Lehrer, Christiane Amanpour and Ruth Gruber.

Now, as the economy continues to falter, the OPC Board of Governors and I remain resolute in our efforts to keep the club moving forward.

Please mark your calendars for April 22 for the annual awards dinner at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. This one, with Andy Rooney of CBS accepting the President's Award, could be the most fun ever. To make the cocktail reception more enjoyable, the hotel this year is giving us the additional floor housing their cocktail lounge with its floor-to-ceiling windows as well as the upstairs entrance to the ballroom. We also anticipate having our first awards after-party, called: "Meet the Winners."

Our programs in 2009 were sensational, some of which included Christopher Dickey's book *Securing the City* and talk with New York City Police Commissioner Ray Kelly on February 2. We held a panel discussion on March 30 to discuss new ventures in international news with Marc Rosenwasser of "World Focus,"

Charlie Sennott from the website www.globalpost.com and *The Washington Post* New York bureau chief and veteran foreign correspondent Keith Richburg.

On June 30, we held Roxana Saberi's first U.S. news conference after her release. We held a delicious vodka sampling accompanying our book night with Linda Himelstein, author of: *King of Vodka* on September 14. OPC Secretary Jane Ciabattari and OPC Board Member Klara Glowczewska brought us a co-sponsored event with the Polish Cultural Institute: a two day extravaganza celebrating Ryszard Kapuściński and the Art of Reportage on October 6 and 7. And on November 9, we brought together a world-class panel of journalists that included Roger Cohen, Tim Aepfel, David Burnett, Michael Meyer and Elizabeth Pond to discuss the 20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall (see page 1). See www.opcofamerica.org for all past event coverage.

In August, we welcomed new board members to serve on your Board of Governors: Diane Brady, Adam B. Ellick, Rana Foroohar, Travis Fox and Toni Reinhold; and also welcomed back George de Lama, Dorinda Elliott, Calvin Sims and Minky Worden.

While we do not plan to have another fund-raising drive in 2010, our consultant Jeanne Sigler has prepared our report to the foundations that gave us a matching

grant and will soon be giving board members a lesson in fund-raising. On August 6, we surpassed our fund-raising goal of \$25,000, 90 minutes before our deadline, which was a victory and a marvelous vote of confidence in the OPC.

Your OPC Freedom of the Press Committee has been busy this year with "Boots" Duque firing off missives to various would-be deterrents and miscreants who want to strangle the free flow of information by impeding and imprisoning journalists. Our most recent letters went to Morocco, Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia.

The website committee and a new documentary committee trying to create a fervor for video-based international journalism also have been cranking up. Please check out www.opcofamerica.org and you will see it already is far more robust than ever. And even though we have experienced several hacker attacks, our webmistress and *Bulletin* Editor, Aimee Rinehart, has security consultants beavering away to rebuild and protect www.opcofamerica.org.

Finally, our sympathy and love goes to longtime OPC friend, James Fry, who died October 19. Jim was the beloved husband of our Executive Director, Sonya, and devoted father to their children, Rebecca and Jamie.

Allan Dodds Frank is the President of the Overseas Press Club of America.

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New Book Sparks Issues of News Trends Today

EVENT RECAP: NOVEMBER 10

by Aimee Rinehart

The OPC Book Night featuring John Maxwell Hamilton's book about American foreign news reporting from the colonial era to the present on Tuesday, November 10, turned out a large and inquisitive crowd that asked specific questions from AP history to far-ranging ideas about the future of foreign reporting and the American audience.

The evening began with a tour of the AP newsroom led by AP media relations manager Jack Stokes. The newsroom is the standard bull-pen style with light-green cubicle structures. Most news desks have three computer monitors. Tickers and electronic times of locations around the world give the feel of a modern, twenty-four hour newsroom.

The space was originally conceived to accommodate up to 500 journalists but now sits 300 to 400 people as the AP moved people to regionalize its edit staff two years ago. In all, Stokes said the AP has a staff of 4000, 3000 of which are journalists stationed throughout its 240 bureaus around the globe. The AP moved from its Rockefeller Center headquarters five years ago to a new building at 450 West 33rd Street, a more non-descript structure and location.

After the tour, a reception populated around the cheese platters and bar that offered wine and soda. Copies of Hamilton's book, *Journalism's Roving Eye: A History of American Foreign Reporting*, were sold for \$45, a bargain as the book weighs in at three pounds and contains 655 pages and provides a sweeping history of American foreign news reporting from the colonial era to the multimedia coverage of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Hamilton is Dean of theanship School of Mass Communication at Louisiana State and a few former students were there to congratulate him on the book and ask questions during the panel discussion.

About 80 people took their seats for a brief lecture by Hamilton followed by a panel discussion, which included AP Senior Managing Editor John Daniszewski, who served as moderator, and *Los Angeles Times* editorial writer Marjorie Miller.

Hamilton began the conversation at the podium citing that there are two high-water marks in foreign reporting in America: the colonial period and the "golden age." Hamilton said during the colonial period, foreign news was stolen and reprinted from the old world and people's letters were co-opted as "casual correspondents." The "golden age" he said, happened between World War I and World War II.

"There were an enormous number of news outlets, journalists were able to go overseas independently, war was looming and editors had less influence because they couldn't be in touch with the journalists as readily," Hamilton said. "Also, Americans were 'liked.' Now being an American abroad can be a ticket to be injured."

Lending a credence to this assertion of the "golden age" is the founding of the OPC during this time period, in 1939. Although, as Hamilton stated, and journalist Richard Pyle later confirmed, most journalists contend that the age *they* worked as a foreign correspondent was the real golden age of news. Pyle counted the golden age of foreign reporting to be from September 1, 1939 to September 11, 2001. Pyle took a voluntary buyout and retired in

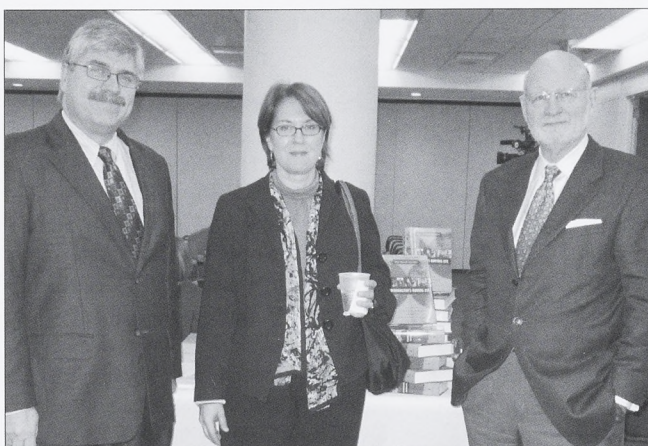


Photo: Aimee Rinehart

From left: John Daniszewski, Marjorie Miller and John Maxwell Hamilton before the panel discussion.

July after 49 years as a journalist with the AP. (See Pyle's rebuttal on page 10.)

Hamilton said that today's foreign correspondents do less news gathering and more reporting.

"That's the problem with today's ability to report instantaneously: it shrinks time and place," he said. "It's a case of the dog who chases its tail, catches it and isn't sure what to do with it."

During the panel discussion, Marjorie Miller, who spent 17 years abroad for the *L.A. Times* as bureau chief in London, Jerusalem, Bonn, Mexico City and San Salvador, said the idea of more reporting and less news gathering cuts both ways.

"In the 1980s in Mexico, we spent two hours reporting and the rest of the time trying to communicate with headquarters," she said. "So we probably under reported. Now you have to feed the web and this can get in the way of thinking and analyzing. At the *Times*, we have reporters call in the story to the web desk, the editors then pull in — and attribute — AP material and that leaves the reporter time to think about the story for the print edition and web write-thrus."

When discussing the future of international news, Hamilton said that much can be predicted by looking at the past. For instance, the "casual correspondents" that filled colonial newspapers are the bloggers and Twitter-ers of today. And the idea of journalists who went to distant places during the "golden age" is now more true than ever for enterprising and aspiring foreign correspondents who have a laptop and digital camera.

In fact, the panel concluded with a question from a soon-to-graduate CUNY journalism school student who asked what the future held. Miller said it's whatever he makes of it.

"It's always been hard to break into journalism," Miller said. "When I graduated I went to Latin America and learned Spanish. If I were graduating now, I might figure out which news organizations have closed bureaus and go to that now-under covered location and see. I'd take jobs that paid — writing for businesses or trade publications — and write on topics I'm passionate about for little-to-no money, but to have the exposure."

Hamilton said that the news hole in most American newspapers for foreign news is roughly 8%. While the odds may be stacked against the mission of foreign reporting, the need for international news in this world shrunk by airplanes and the Internet is ever more urgent.

Journalists Give Eye-Witness Accounts of When the Wall Came Down

(Continued From Page 1)

shot being fired.”

Michael Meyer, *Newsweek* magazine’s Bonn/Berlin bureau chief in those days, who would end a long reporting day by ferrying East German hitch-hikers to the Berlin Wall that day.

“I remember at one point the crowd got so close to the police with their weapons, I don’t know if they were loaded or not, but it was a cold night,” Meyer recalled. “Illuminated by the spotlight, their breaths began to mingle. To me, that was a memorable image. It was almost intimate in an odd way.”

Timothy Aepfel, the Bonn/Berlin correspondent for *The Wall Street Journal* at the time, said he was in the thick of the events following a group of East Germans to the wall without quite realizing what was going on.

Elizabeth Pond, a writer and lecturer on international affairs, said she was actually grateful to catch the first few moments of the event on television before going to the scene.

And Burnett, a peripatetic award-winning journalist who has photographed every significant world event of the last few decades, was on his way to Berlin from Washington D.C.

“Immediately, you sensed something emotional and wonderful and human and very few times in my life have I had any experience like that,” Burnett said. “It was just a joy to be a photographer and to be there and to share that moment with people.”

Aepfel remembered the East Germans that night being firm with guards at the checkpoint but also a remarkable lack of hostility between the people and the police. It was a tense, uncertain time. Just a few months earlier, in China’s Tiananmen Square, a similar confrontation ended in tragic bloodshed witnessed by the whole world.

The Berlin Wall was erected in 1961 to stem the tide of hundreds of thousands of East Germans fleeing a communist nation annexed by the Soviet Union from a defeated and devastated Germany following World War II. The part of Germany that remained free and part of a Western alliance thrived and boomed in every way while the regions stuck behind the iron curtain suffered reversals economic and otherwise.

Besides separating families, the wall became both a symbolic and real demarcation point in the Cold War. Its demolition tripped other dominoes that led to the eventual dissolution of the Soviet Union by 1991. It gave birth to a new Europe.

But in Berlin that night, on both sides of the border, a party was just about to start, said Meyer, whose book *The Year That Changed the World: The Untold Story of the Fall of the Berlin Wall*, came out in September.

Meyer described a woman wearing light-blue bathrobe and hair curlers bouncing up and down. One of the first people to go through that night, she turned back and said to her friends: “I’m only going to be gone for a minute. I just want to see if it’s real.”

“She was swept up in the crowd going out the pedestrian exit before the car exit opened up,” Meyer said. “And that was my view of the wall coming down. It was 11:17 exactly, as I had scrawled in my notebook. The Wall Comes Down!”

Roger Cohen, a columnist for *The New York Times* and the *International Herald Tribune* who himself would helm the Berlin bureau of the *Times* a decade after the events being



Berlin Wall panel from left: David Burnett, Elizabeth Pond, Roger Cohen, Timothy Aepfel and Michael Meyer.

recounted, ably steered the journalists through their recollections.

“Did you think at that moment that it was a permanent breach?” was a typical question from Cohen that night.

“Oh, yeah,” came Meyer’s response. “The crowds were very well mannered. But, then, you just never knew. In this situation you never knew what might have happened.”

Pond, who chronicled those events in her 1993 book, *Beyond the Wall: Germany’s Road to Unification*, pointed out that the fact that nothing tragic happened that night was largely due to the moral courage of the East German demonstrators who had been marching for freedom long before the night of November 9, 1989. She recalled one march in particular, on October 9, 1989, when thousands of marchers in Leipzig defied warnings not to assemble and marched despite armed security forces.

Because of them, the world stepped away from the brink of nuclear annihilation. Within a year, East and West Germany reunited, paving the way for the European Union and the global economy.

Michael O. Allen, a former journalist, now runs his website: michaelloallen.com.



East German troops in 1989. This photo was taken by David Burnett, who participated in the discussion. More of his photos in their original color version are at www.opcofamerica.org



GORDON CURRIE/BILL SHINN

PEOPLE... with Al Kaff

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS:

At the November board meeting of the OPC Foundation, President **Bill Holstein** and board members **Sally Jacobsen** and **Brian Rhoads** gave these reports on Foundation scholarship winners:

Jerry Guo (who had an Op-ed piece in *The New York Times* this summer) was hired as a correspondent for *Newsweek*, **Ed Ou** is in the Middle East freelancing, **Haley Edwards** is in Yemen and her reports have been on LATimes.com and Globalpost.com as well as www.opcofamerica.org, **Mariano Castillo** (former Foundation intern with Reuters in Mexico City) is with CNN in Atlanta, **Simon Akam** (going to Istanbul in January on OPCF/Reuters internship) had a front page story in *The New York Times* this summer, and **Paul Sonne** (former OPCF intern with AP in Moscow) is with the *Wall Street Journal's* European edition.

Deadline to apply for the 2010 scholarships is December 1. Scholarship luncheon information is on page 9.

Michelle Theriault (Johannesburg) and **Michael Miller** (Mexico City) had successful AP internships — lots of stories and bylines. Michael has returned to Mexico City and is freelancing for AP, among others.

Maria Repnikova had a successful summer with Reuters in Beijing, working with the TV unit. **Simon Akam** plans to go to Istanbul in January to work in the Reuters bureau for at least three months.



Photo: Paul Stephens

OPC scholar Haley Sweetland Edwards with friends in Yemen; 85% of women in Sana'a wear the hijab and niqab in public.

Hannah Clark Steiman, who won the Alexander Kendrick Scholarship in 2006, has been appointed communications manager of the Clinton Global Initiative, which is a project of the Clinton Foundation. She worked for *Forbes* from late 2005 to March 2007 and then at *Inc.* until this August.

MURDER: Newsman **José Bladimir Antuna Garcia's** body was found November 2 in Durango, Mexico after his vehicle was blocked by a van while he was driving to work and several armed individuals from the van abducted him. A crime correspondent for the daily *El Tiempo de Durango*, Antuna Garcia had been strangled and shot in his head and abdomen. A note was found with the body reading, "This happened to me because I gave information to the military and wrote things that I should not have written. Be careful when preparing stories. Sincerely, Bladimir." For several months, Antuna Garcia received death threats from suspected members of Zetas, a criminal gang linked to a drug cartel. Reporters Without Borders said 56 journalists have been killed in Mexico since 2000 for their work.

BAKU: Two bloggers in Azerbaijan were convicted of hooliganism November 11 and sentenced to prison. Frequently posting video political parodies, they appeared to have poked fun at the authoritarian government by posting a video of a donkey holding a news conference. The prosecution said the video had nothing to do with the arrests, but *The New York Times* wrote that the case prompted "criticism that the government was clamping down on independent media." **Adnan Hajizade**, 26, was sentenced to two years in prison, **Emin Milli**, 30, two and a half years.

BEIJING: **Hu Shuli** resigned November 9 as editor-in-chief of *Caijing*, a magazine that specializes in investigat-

ing government corruption and corporate fraud. She has written its editorials for the past eleven years. *Caijing's* owners have come under Communist Party pressure to rein in the magazine's aggressive journalism. Senior editors and most of the magazine's journalists quit earlier or plan to do so. Hu, 56, has accepted a post as journalism dean at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, formerly known as Canton.



Hu Shuli

BEIRUT: **Simon Abou Fadel**, a journalist with the Lebanese newspaper *Al-Kalima*, was charged in November with "insulting" the Lebanese president for criticizing in a TV interview the president's role in efforts to create a national unity cabinet that was formed November 4. Fadel told the International Press Institute, "I said in my interview that the president should be more present in the establishment of the government. I am a journalist. I said

(Continued on Page 6)

OPC HOLIDAY PARTY

Rockefeller Center Club Quarters

with a view of the tree
25 West 51 Street

Tuesday, January 5
6 to 9 p.m.

Open bar, mashed-potato martini bar,
buffet, dessert and coffee
\$80 per person

Advance Reservations Essential
212-626-9220

(Continued From Page 5)

what the people are saying. I offer analysis. I didn't insult the president."

CHICAGO: Former OPC board member **James E. O'Shea** is the editor of the new nonprofit Chicago News Cooperative that publishes an insert of Chicago news into *The New York Times*. Started in November, the Cooperative produces two pages of Chicago news that appear twice a week in copies of *The Times* distributed in the Chicago area. O'Shea is a former editor of the *Los Angeles Times* and former managing editor of the *Chicago Tribune*. Start-up financing for the Cooperative was provided by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and Chicago public TV station WTTW.



James O'Shea

DHAKA: **F. M. Masum**, a staff correspondent for the local *New Age* newspaper, was taken from his home by members of the Rapid Action Battalion in October and tortured for more than 10 hours.

Upon release, he was taken to a hospital with marks all over his body. Home Minister Sahara Khatun and Home Affairs Minister Shamsul Haq Tuku visited him in the hospital and pledged to punish RAB members responsible for his torture. Masum had written reports on alleged human rights abuses, especially by the RAB.

GUADALAJARA, Mexico: **Ruth Lor Malloy**, a travel writer and photographer, won two awards at the Society of American Travel Writers Convention in October: a gold medal for a photo of horses in a Calgary, Canada rodeo and a silver medal for an image of birds in a broken tree branch in Botswana. Malloy was a Copley News Service stringer during the Vietnam War, which her husband, **Mike Malloy**, covered for UPI. The Malloys live in Toronto, Mike's last post after he joined Dow Jones.



The gold medal photo taken by Ruth Lor Malloy.

HONG KONG: The Foreign Correspondents' Club's (FCC) 8th annual Charity Ball and Auction in September raised what the Club's magazine called a "fantastic" HK\$1,447,900 (about U.S. \$186,825) from donations, admission and raffle tickets, and auctions. The money provides scholarships and language training to poor children in Hong Kong. Among items auctioned off were a signed copy of music by the Rolling Stones, a Les Paul guitar signed by rockers U2, an All Blacks jersey and a ladies diamond wrist watch.

Karl Chan Ka-ying won an FCC scholarship in 2003, then earned a bachelor's degree from Hong Kong University and now is a 25-year-old businessman. At this year's ball, he said, "Not only did the scholarship I received help me financially — because I come from a single parent family — the support and advice I got gave me confidence in myself and my studies. Management is what I am interested in but I have maintained the connections I made through the FCC and through the ball — that is important too, to keep up connections outside of work."

JIDDA, Saudi Arabia: Journalist **Rozanna al-Yami**, 22, was sentenced to 60 lashes October 24 after she was charged with involvement in a TV show in which a Saudi man talked about sex. But two days later, she was pardoned by King Abdullah Bin-Abd-al-Aziz Al Saud. In



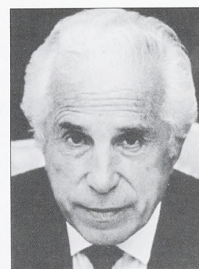
Rozanna al-Yami

the program broadcast in July by Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, Mazen Abdul-Jawad described his active sex life and showed sex toys, which the station blurred. The same court sentenced him to five years in prison and 1,000 lashes. Yami said she had worked as a coordinator for the program but did not work on the sex episode.

LA PAZ, Bolivia: Demonstrators exploded dynamite grenades outside the offices of the daily *La Razón* October 21, but no one was injured. The newspaper said the demonstrators were apparently angered by the paper's editorial stance which demonstrators claim is "at the mercy of and in favor of businessmen." The early afternoon attack took place while miners were marching in protest against the ownership of a mine.

MADURAI, India: **A. S. Mani**, editor of the Tamil magazine *Naveena Netrikan*, was arrested on charges of defamation in October after the magazine published an article that charged the plaintiff, a local contractor, and a government minister with corruption in awarding major road contracts. Mani also was charged with promoting enmity between people of different religions and race and doing acts prejudicial to harmony.

NEW YORK: *World Policy Journal* added six new members to its editorial board in November and appointed long-time OPC member **Seymour Topping** as its first chairman. Topping spent 33 years with *The New York Times* as a foreign correspondent, foreign editor and managing editor. After retiring from *The Times*, he was administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes and San Paolo Professor of International Journalism at Columbia University, where he now is President of Emeritus Professors in Columbia.



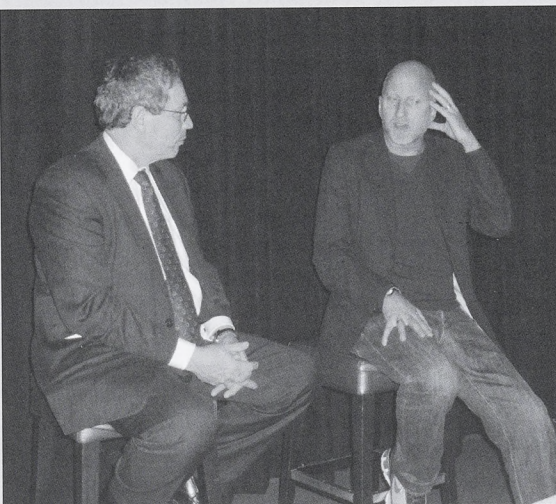
Seymour Topping

New board members: **Ying Chan**, founder and director of the journalism and media studies center at the University of Hong Kong. **Naresh Fernandes**, editor-in-chief of *Time Out*

OPC Screens "The Road" With Film Director On-Hand

OPC President **Allan Dodds Frank**, interviewed **John Hillcoat**, director of "The Road" after the screening of the film for OPC members on October 29.

Hillcoat said that the bleak scenery in the movie was all authentic and not computer generated. The back drop was really New Orleans after Katrina in 2005, Mt. St. Helens after the eruption in 1980 and fields in western Pennsylvania. Only a few scenes had con trails and birds wiped out to give a post-disaster scenario. Frank asked the director if the author of "The Road" Cormac McCarthy had input into the film. Hillcoat said that McCarthy appeared on the set but was pleased with the screenplay, the acting and he did not interfere with filming.



Allan Dodds Frank, left, and film director John Hillcoat.

— by Sonya K. Fry

India, Mumbai, India. **Sulaiman Al-Hattlan**, CEO of the Arab Strategy Forum, Dubai. **Azubuike Ishiekwe**, executive director of Nigeria's *Punch* newspaper group. **Paul Kelly**, editor-at-large at *The Australian*. **Patrick Wajzman**, founder and editor-in-chief *Politique Internationale*, France.

David A. Andelman, an OPC board member, is editor of *World Policy Journal*, a magazine published four times a year and daily on its global Website, worldpolicy.org. In October, the Website reached its highest readership with more than 120,000 visitors, 60 percent from abroad, 40 percent in the United States.

◆
Jeremy Main and **Kevin McDermott** of the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee wrote to King Mohamed VI of Morocco in November to express dismay over "the escalating efforts of your government to suppress and intimidate the Moroccan press." Their letter cited three cases in October and November: "The editor of *Al Michael*, **Driss Chahtan**, was sentenced to a year in jail for publishing information about Your Majesty's health and immediately started to serve his sentence. Two of his editors were sentenced

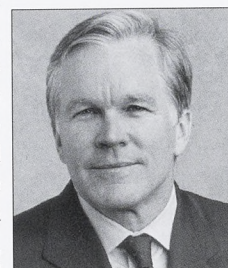
to three months imprisonment but are for the moment free.

"**Ali Anouzla**, editor of *Al Jarida Al Oula*, was sentenced to a year in jail for publishing information about Your Majesty's health. His sentence was suspended. Another journalist on the same paper received a three-month suspended sentence.

"Publisher **Taoufik Bouachrine** and cartoonist **Khalid Gueddar** of *Akhbar al Youm* received deferred three-year sentences because the daily published a cartoon about the wedding of a relative of Your Majesty."

◆
A new Club Quarters opened in November on the south side of the World Trade Center, and OPC members are welcome there. Floor-to-ceiling windows in each hotel room provide dramatic views of downtown Manhattan. A beer and wine reception is held nightly in the lobby for all guests, and a complimentary breakfast is served. For information and reservations telephone (212) 575-0006 in the United States, +44 (20) 7451-5800 in Europe or at www.clubquarters.com.

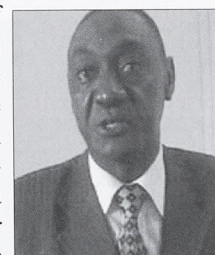
The New York Times is cutting 100 people from its newsroom staff of 1,250 by offering buyouts and layoffs if not enough staffers accept buyouts. By cutting pay 5 percent, *The Times* originally planned no reductions this year, but hopes of a turnaround in the newspaper business faded. **Bill Keller**, executive editor, said in a note to his staff, "I won't pretend that these staff cuts will not add to the burden of journalists whose responsibilities have grown faster than their compensation. Like you, I yearn for the day when we can do our jobs without looking over our shoulders for economic thunderstorms."



Bill Keller

In addition to those cuts, *The New York Times* News Service plans to lay-off at least 25 editorial employees next year and move editing of the syndicated service to a newspaper owned by *The Times* in Florida, *The Gainesville Sun*. *The Sun's* newsroom is not unionized.

NIAMEY, Niger: Abdoulaye Tiemogo, editor of the weekly *Le Canard Dechainé*, was released from prison in October after a court of appeal reduced his sentence from three to two months. He was sent to prison in August for "casting discredit on a judicial ruling" for a comment he made on a private TV channel about an international arrest warrant for exiled former Prime Minister Hama Amadou on corruption charges. In ill health, Tiemogo was taken in August by security forces from a hospital to prison. Tiemogo told human rights groups that conditions in prison were "appalling."



Abdoulaye Tiemogo

OSH, Kyrgyzstan: Kubanychbek Joldoshev, a correspondent for the newspaper *Osh Shamy* (The Torch of Osh), was beaten by unknown attackers

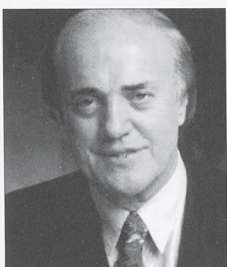
(Continued on Page 8)

(Continued From Page 7)

November 1 and hospitalized with multiple injuries. Joldoshev was riding in a taxi when it was stopped by police, who took the driver away allegedly for an alcohol test. As soon as the police left, three men approached the taxi and beat the newspaperman. A local news executive said Joldoshev may have been attacked because of his recent coverage of student protests at Osh State University and criticism of the University's rector.

PALO ALTO, California: **Yu Wei**, a former Taiwan government spokesman in Taipei, Tokyo and Vienna, now lives in Palo Alto. He was called "Fish" by the many foreign correspondents who knew him, because "yu" is a Mandarin word for fish. He was a spokesman for the Nationalist Chinese Air Force in which he served as a fighter pilot during World War II, and later for many years he was an official of the Government Information Office.

SHANTOU, China: OPC Member **Peter Arnett**, who teaches at Shantou University, a 40-minute flight from Hong Kong, has taken his students on reporting trips to Vietnam, Uganda and Ghana at university expense. "Currently I'm traveling around China with student reporter teams looking into Chinese advances in environment improvement," he wrote in an e-mail to this column this autumn. "My students make their material available to Chinese language and English language newspapers, with some publishing success." Arnett, who won a Pulitzer Prize for his reporting during the Vietnam War, has been at the university for the past two and a half years.



Peter Arnett

SILVER SPRING, Maryland: When **Max Desfor** heard about plans for a reunion next April of correspondents who were once based in Japan, he telephoned this correspondent and rattled off from memory the names of several colleagues who should be invited.

Three days later, on November 8, Desfor turned 96, "but don't remind me." Desfor, a former president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club in Tokyo, won a Pulitzer Prize for his photo of Korean refugees fleeing over a bombed-out river bridge during the Korean War when he was an AP photographer. Later, his photo of former Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and patriot Mahatma Gandhi was reproduced on an Indian postage stamp. Desfor's World War II work included a photo of the crew of the U.S. bomber Enola Gay when they returned to Tinian in the Marianas after dropping the atom bomb on Hiroshima. Desfor reported that he has recovered from foot surgery, and his companion Shirley is O.K. after a hospital stay.



Clive Marshall

SYDNEY: **Clive Marshall**, chief executive officer of Australian Associated Press, will leave the company in January to become CEO of the Press Association Group in London. He joined Australia's national news organization in 2001 after spending eight years in a number of senior posts at the PA Group that owns the Press Association, national news agency of the United Kingdom and Ireland.

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras: Unidentified assailants threw a military grenade at the offices of Radio HRN November 5. The blast injured two persons and damaged the station's main broadcast booth. "Local media organizations condemned the attack as an attempt to limit freedom of expression," the International Press Institute wrote in a statement from Vienna. Since the June 28 coup d'état in Honduras and the political tensions that followed, about 10 grenades have been tossed at or placed inside Honduran media offices, but not all of them exploded. HRN, Honduras'

oldest radio station, celebrated its 76th anniversary November 1.

TEHERAN: Iranian authorities shut down the reformist daily *Sarmayeh* in November on charges of "repeated violations of the press law." No details were disclosed, but the newspaper has been critical of the economic policies of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.



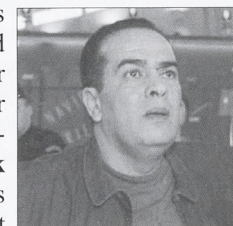
Farhad Pouladi, an Agence France-Presse reporter, was taken into custody by Iranian authorities in November when he was on his way to cover a state-sanctioned rally on the 30th anniversary of the takeover of the U.S. Embassy. Anti-government protesters clashed with riot police nearby.



Farhad Pouladi

TULSA: **Laurette Heger**, author of *Saigon Is Burning*, a memoir of her childhood in World War II Vietnam, has returned to her earlier occupation, pastry chef. She learned the art at Le Notre International Pastry School in Paris and then worked as a pastry chef in Lausanne, Switzerland; in Las Vegas at Stardust, Desert Inn and the Aladdin; San Diego and Palm Springs. Several months ago, Laurette joined the staff at the Petroleum Club in Tulsa as its pastry chef and postponed work on her second book, the story of "a troubled teenager who has a history of drug abuse and is under psychiatric care [for] mental abuse." Laurette is a former wife of the late **Ernie Hoberecht**, a longtime OPC member and vice president of UPI's Asia Division. She married Ernie in Asia and traveled with him throughout the continent.

TUNIS: Tunisian journalist **Slim Boukhdhir** was kidnapped and beaten October 28 and another Tunisian newsman, **Taoufik Ben Brik**, was arrested the next day. Four men,



Taoufik Ben Brik

believed to be plainclothes police officers, kidnapped Boukhdhir, forced him into a car and took him to a park where he was beaten. In a BBC interview earlier that day, he criticized Tunisian President Ben Ali, who had just been elected to a fifth term. Ben Brik, a government critic who has been prevented from leaving Tunisia, was arrested for allegedly attacking a woman.

WESTPORT, Connecticut: OPC member **Gordon Joseloff**, a former correspondent in Europe and Asia, was elected November 3 to his second term as Westport's first selectman, the town's chief executive. He defeated his Republican challenger 3,676 to 3,242 and a write-in candidate who received 172 votes. Joseloff, 64, was one of only two Democrats, to win first selectmen races in affluent Fairfield County. Before coming back to Westport where he grew up and was a teenage local newspaper reporter, Gordon in the 1960s and 1970s was a UPI correspondent in New York, London and Moscow and a CBS News bureau chief in Moscow and Tokyo. His family has been major property owners in Westport for 90 years.



Gordon Joseloff

YEREVAN, Armenia: **Nikol Pashinyan**, editor-in-chief of the daily *Haykakan Zhamanak* (Armenian Times), went on trial in October on charges of organizing the March 2008 riots that followed a contested presidential election and left 10 people dead. Pashinyan, a vocal opposition figure, denied the charges and claimed the Armenian judiciary is corrupt.



Nikol Pashinyan

ZAGREB, Croatia: Eight men were indicted in October in the killing of newspaper publisher **Ivo Pukanic**, owner and editorial director of NCL Media Group, who was killed last year

by a car bomb in front of his office. Also killed in the explosion under Pukanic's car was **Niko Franjic**, marketing director of the weekly *Nacional*, which is published by NCL.

PEOPLE REMEMBERED

David F. Belnap, 87, a correspondent in Latin America from 1955 to 1980 and winner of a 1970 OPC award for best reporting in any medium on Latin America, died of heart failure November 8 in an Arcadia, California hospital. His major stories included Juan Peron's return to power in Argentina, election of Socialist President Salvador Allende in Chile and the rise of rebel factions in Nicaragua. For 20 years, Belnap worked for UP and UPI in domestic bureaus and Buenos Aires, where he became director of the wire service's Latin American operations. He joined the *Los Angeles Times* Buenos Aires bureau in 1967. In 1980, Belnap was assigned as an editor on the *L.A. Times* foreign desk, retiring in 1993. In addition to his OPC award, Belnap won the 1973 Maria Moors Cabot Prize from Columbia University for his Latin America reporting. He is survived by his wife, **Barbara**, whom he met when he was assistant city editor of the now defunct *Seattle Star*. They married in 1947.



David Belnap, 1973

Wayland H. Young, 85, a former correspondent for Britain's *Observer* in Rome and North Africa, died May 7.

Sir Clement Freud, 84, grandson of Sigmund Freud and once was said to be Britain's highest paid newspaperman, died April 15. When his byline appeared in many magazines, Clement was said to earn £30,000 a year (now about U.S.\$49,000), then a record in Britain. He was a sports writer for several London newspapers and the *New Yorker*.

OVERSEAS PRESS CLUB FOUNDATION

Annual Scholarship Luncheon
Friday, February 19, 2010

Keynote Speaker
Lionel Barber
Editor
The Financial Times



Grand Ballroom, Yale Club
50 Vanderbilt Avenue, New York City

Reception: 11:30 a.m.
Luncheon: Noon to 2 p.m.

Benefactor Table: \$8,000
Patron Table: \$5,000
Friend Table: \$2,000

OPC Members: \$75
Non-members: \$100

Contact: Jane Reilly at
foundation@opcofamerica.org
201-493-9087

After World War II service with the British Eighth Army in North Africa and Italy, **William E. Porter** became involved in the Moral Rearmament movement and was based in India from 1955 to 1959. During that time, he was a freelance correspondent for *The Scotsman* and the *Indian Express* and later freelanced in Yugoslavia. Later a book publishing executive in London, Porter died April 1 at age 88.



Gerrard Kemp, 81, who reported from Angola, Australia, Mexico, Uganda, Nigeria and Amman when he was chief reporter at London's *Sunday Telegraph*, died January 6.

Journalist Recalls His Version of the "Golden Age" of Journalism

OPINION

by Richard Pyle

What is — or was — the "Golden Age" of journalism? Did the craft to which we happily dedicate part, or all, of our lives, actually have a golden age, like ancient Greece or French art?

Has journalism as we know it today even been around long enough to have had an era that could meet that definition?

This question came up when Professor Jack Hamilton, head of the journalism school at Louisiana State University, delivered a lecture sponsored jointly by the OPC and the Associated Press on November 10, about his new book, *Journalism's Roving Eye: A History of American Foreign Reporting*. (See page 3.)

In the course of his talk, Professor Hamilton mentioned that many reporters and editors he had met saw themselves as having been part of a golden age, and Hamilton himself had settled on the period "between the wars" — meaning World Wars I and II — as journalism's version of that.

This took me back three years, when I was one of a dozen AP staffers invited to write a new history of AP, titled *Breaking News: How the Associated Press Covered War, Peace and Everything Else*.

Delving into that project was a learning experience. In addition to determining that AP actually had been founded in 1846, not 1848, we recognized a salient historical truth — that the simultaneous invention of AP and the Morse telegraph was beyond fortuitous — the formation of a symbiotic alliance that became the foundation of American journalism and ultimately a global template.

Prior to that time, as Professor Hamilton himself noted, newspapers didn't gather their own news. They didn't have "reporters" as such, but filled their pages with letters, articles and essays lifted from other publications: Blogs and op-eds, 19th century style.

One might argue that's not enough time for any human endeavor to claim a "Golden Age." But the industrial revolution, the abolishment of long-entrenched political order and other forces moving at warp speed have effectively crammed the equivalent of several previous centuries of human events into those 160-plus years.

No earlier decades need apply.

So, back to the original idea: Journalism did have a Golden Age, at roughly the second half of the 20th century, more precisely the period between September 1, 1939 when Hitler invaded Poland and September 11, 2001, when terrorists slammed hijacked jetliners into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Within those 62-year bookends, many more important things happened than could be listed in this space.

Never before was so much "news" available to be witnessed, reported and analyzed. Never before was the press able to do it in such an unfettered manner, with so much access to the powerful, or to the actual occurrences that made headlines.

Competition to be first or best with a story was very much a part of print journalism; television came into its own as a powerful presence in news, and photojournalism attained new levels of quality and story-telling impact.

So here's an attempt, admittedly subjective and incomplete, to make the point that we who worked in journalism during that

period were, by virtue of timing, the beneficiaries of journalism's true Golden Age:

- The biggest war in world history was fought, and at the greatest cost ever in human lives, and the right side won.

- A Cold War followed and lasted half a century, but its threat of nuclear annihilation of mankind never occurred.

- Commercial television arrived.

- A civil rights revolution occurred in the United States, accomplishing through legal, social, political and cultural forces and actions what the Civil War had left unfinished.

- Communism dominated a large segment of the human race with false promises and ultimately failed.

- The United States, committed to seeing that happen, fought two more wars, including Vietnam, the longest war of the 20th century. (For the record, at least 75 journalists were killed or went missing, the most in any 20th century war.)

- Fidel Castro took over Cuba. The Cuban missile crisis nearly brought on WWII.

- President Kennedy was assassinated, changing America into a different country overnight. Dr Martin Luther King Jr.'s murder took it still further.

- Men walked on the moon.

- Drug use emerged from the shadows to become a social, cultural and crime-related fact in daily life.

- Women gained dramatic advances toward equality.

- Colonialism collapsed in Africa and Asia. Israel was created by western democracies in their own image and became the flashpoint for new strife in the Middle East.

- Frank Sinatra, Rock 'n' Roll, Elvis Presley, the Beatles, Marilyn Monroe, Bogart, Brando, Volkswagen Beetle, Chevrolet Corvette.

- Computers and digital technology revolutionized the way humans communicate.

- Medical science eradicated old diseases, isolated new ones, found new ways to sustain human life and decoded DNA, the building blocks of all life.

Anyone can fill in more blanks to fill out this amazing wave of events, good and bad — and always newsworthy.

That it ended as it began, in an orgy of violence against innocent people, suggests human beings didn't learn much from it.

Nor was it, for better or worse, the end of history. The 9/11 attacks were not only a logical cutoff point for that era, but the menacing overture to a future that could be just as tumultuous.

Given the march of technology and other factors that rip away the romance and excitement of reporting the news, however, the journalists who cover it should not expect another Golden Age.

That belongs to those who reported, wrote and edited for a living during those six past decades of astonishing and often world-shaking events. Most would likely concur in the premise that journalism as a way of life was never as good before that, and will never be as good again.

Richard Pyle worked in news for 52 years, covered six wars, four continents and 40-plus countries. He retired from the AP on July 27, 2008, three days short of 49 years with the wire service.

Old-World Press Club Marks Momentous Anniversary in Vienna

by Sonya K. Fry

Here in the New World we count our history in decades. In Old World Europe they count in centuries. The OPC is very proud of its 70 year history, but in Vienna their Presseclub Concordia just marked its 150th anniversary. Traditionally the Viennese know how to celebrate the grand occasions and in this spirit I was invited to attend the anniversary gala dinner in Vienna on November 5 in the beautiful gothic Rathaus (City Hall). Also attending were representatives from other European press clubs: Berlin, Frankfurt, Paris and Warsaw.

The keynote speaker was Alison Smale who we know from her days at *The New York Times*. Currently she is Executive Editor of the *International Herald Tribune*. Having spent most of her journalism career in Europe specifically as AP bureau chief for Eastern Europe, her German is excellent and I assume her talk was good, but since I speak almost no words of German I will have to take it on faith.

The Vienna Press Club organized events for its guests including an excellent Impressionist show at the Albertina, a visit to a Heurigen where we tasted wine grown from grapes within Vienna and ate too much good Austrian fare.

Feeling obligated to do more than just socialize, I visited the International Press Institute. The OPC receives their original investigative work on journalists in trouble, jailed or killed, much as the Committee to Protect Journalists operates here in New York City. It was good to meet the staff who send us their reports daily. Putting a face to an organization is invaluable. The IPI is located in a very old building — including a iron-caged elevator — near St. Stephen's Cathedral. I was so awed that their offices overlooked the famous steeple and rooftop of St. Stephen's. Since the OPC office is in the basement of Club Quarters, a world-famous view impresses me.



Sonya Fry with Deputy Director of IPI, Alison Bethel McKenzie overlooking St. Stephen's steeple.



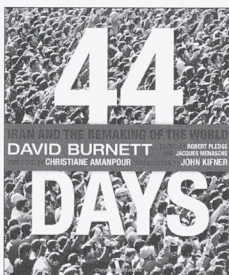
Alison Smale, IHT; Sonya Fry, OPC; Peter Bochska, President and Ilse Brandner-Radinger, General Secretary, of the Presseclub Concordia



Sonya converses and shares a drink with the director of the new Warsaw Press Club Jaroslaw Wlodarczyk and his wife Magdalena.

New Books: (Continued From Page 12)

Christiane Amanpour, CNN's chief international correspondent who was born in Iran, wrote, "David Burnett's magnificent photographic record of the revolution remind us, 30 years later, of what my father told me: that nothing would ever be the same again. The first modern Islamic revolution has since inspired millions around the world. Thirty years after the Islamic Republic of Iran took American diplomats hostage for 444 days, relations between Iran and the U.S. remain ruptured. Today, the need to repair that relationship has never been greater." Burnett has worked in more than 75 countries, and he co-founded Contact Press Images. His prizes include an Overseas Press Club award for his coverage of the 1979 Iran revolt, the subject of his book, and he participated in the Club's November 9 panel discussion on the fall of the Berlin Wall.



— by Al Kaff

\$25 Credit at Club Quarters

The OPC and Club Quarters are working together to fight the recession.

We are now happy to announce that each OPC member is entitled to a **\$25 credit** on the restaurant and bar at the Midtown CQ, 40 West 45 Street, or at any CQ hotel in the U.S. and in London.

To take advantage of the offer, simply show your OPC membership card. When you are making a reservation in a hotel, show your card upon registration at the hotel.

The credit is good until **June 2010** and we hope that all OPCers will take advantage of this good deal.

*Offer is for each individual OPC member and is not transferrable.

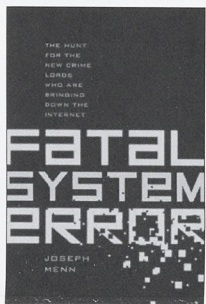
New Books

GLOBAL

THE INTERNET IS IN BIG trouble, **Joseph Menn** writes in *Fatal System Error: The Hunt for the New Crime Lords Who Are Bringing Down the Internet* [New York: Public Affairs]. Menn, who covers cyber security for the *Financial Times*, describes how organized gangs from San Francisco to Costa Rica, London and Russia are stealing financial data from consumers and defense secrets from governments. "The Internet as a means of communication, exploration, and entertainment will live on," the author said in an interview with the publisher. "But the Net is already unsafe for financial transactions and transmissions of sensitive government and corporate data, and that is getting much worse. Criminals now have



Joseph Menn

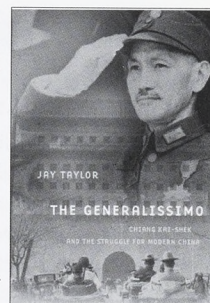


the capability to misdirect email and web traffic... Law enforcement is fighting a hopeless battle against adversaries hiding behind international borders."

ASIA

LIKE MANY CORRESPONDENTS assigned to Taiwan, **Dan Southerland** recalls that in the early 1960s in Taipei he "shared the standard view of Chiang [Kai-shek] as a rigid dictator" who was "lacking ideals and significant achievements." But Southerland, a former correspondent in Japan, Taiwan and China for UPI, *The Christian Science Monitor* and *The Washington Post*, found that **Jay Taylor** "sets the record straight" in the biography *The Generalissimo: Chiang Kai Shek and the Struggle for Modern China* [Harvard University: Belknap Press]. Reviewing the book in the *Monitor*, Southerland wrote, "I sympathized [in the 1960s] with opposition writers and politicians and was not inclined to look kindly on Chiang Kai-shek. But relying on new materials, including Chiang's diaries and interviews with key participants, Taylor reveals that Chiang was even then plotting dramatic economic and political reforms. Most of the credit for Taiwan's democratization has gone over the years to Chiang's son and successor Chiang Ching-kuo. But Taylor makes clear that the elder Chiang was encouraging changes made by his son. At the same time, Taylor, a former diplomat turned historian, does not ignore Chiang's failings. On several occasions, as Taylor describes it, Chiang "sanctioned extreme

actions that amounted to staggering moral blindness." Taylor was a U.S. Foreign Service officer in Hong Kong during the Cultural Revolution. Southerland is executive editor of Radio Free Asia that is funded by the U.S. Congress. In an e-mail, Southerland commented, "Now I know why my old boss [the late OPC member] **Ernie Hoberecht** held CKS in such high esteem."



MIDDLE EAST

THE OVERTHROW OF SHAH Mohammed Reza Pahlavi of Iran 30 years ago touched off an Islamic revolution that continues today. OPC member **David Burnett**, an international photojournalist, covered the six weeks of the end of the Shah's rule and the political scramble that followed. The photos he made then and his day-by-day dispatches are collected in *44 DAYS: Iran and the Remaking of the World* [Washington: National Geographic Books]. At a time when most Westerners were fleeing the carnage in Iran, Burnett remained to record the sudden end of the Shah's rule and the chaotic political scramble that ended in the triumph of the ayatollahs and the birth of the Islamic republic.

In the book's forward, OPC member

(Continued on Page 11)

Coming Up...

OPC Book Night
David Hoffman

The Dead Hand: The Untold Story of the Cold War Arms Race and Its Dangerous Legacy
December 1, 6 p.m.

OPC Holiday Party
January 5, 6 p.m.

\$80 per person
Club Quarters, Rockefeller Center
Reservations Essential

Overseas Press Club of America
40 West 45 Street
New York, NY 10036 USA